

# THE LINCOLN AND GRANT FAMILIES

AS THEY APPEARED IN TWO PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE CIVIL WAR PERIOD

THE period of the Civil War was also the period of "family albums." The daguerreotype had only a short time before given way to the photograph; and in those days a photograph meant a small card affair, which was known as the *carte-de-visite* from its size and shape. On the table in every sitting-room was sure to be found the family album, full of these card-photographs. About half of the book would display likenesses of the father and mother, the grandfathers and grandmothers, and the collateral branches of the family. The remaining pages would be adorned with portraits of Queen Victoria, the Prince of Wales, General and Mrs. Tom Thumb, Signor Brignoli, Edwin Forrest, Mme. Ponisi, or other celebrities who happened to be selected by the owners of the volume.

These celebrities varied, of course, with individual taste; but pretty nearly every American album contained one or both of the photographs which are here reproduced—President Lincoln and his family, and General Grant surrounded by his wife and children. The Lincoln portraits varied most; but the one oftenest seen represented Mr. Lincoln as seated and reading from a large book, while his favorite son, "Tad," stood beside him. But very often the whole family was given—the President and Mrs. Lincoln, young Robert T. Lincoln, and "Tad."

Robert Lincoln—the only one of the President's four sons who lived to maturity—was at Harvard during the early part of the war, graduating in 1864, when he was at once appointed to the staff of General Grant. This fixes the date of the photograph here given, as it shows him in uniform. The President once said of him:

"Bob is 'short and low,' and I expect he always will be. He is quite smart enough. I sometimes fear he is one of the little *rare-ripe* sort, that are smarter at about five than ever after. He has a great deal of that sort of mischief that is the offspring of animal spirits."

Lincoln's son Willie, whose full name was William Wallace Lincoln, had died in 1862, at one of the darkest periods of the war. The blow was almost crushing to the father, who was already burdened with a thousand



A WAR-TIME PHOTOGRAPH OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN WITH MRS. LINCOLN AND THEIR TWO SURVIVING SONS, ROBERT (IN UNIFORM) AND THOMAS ("TAD") LINCOLN





A WAR-TIME PHOTOGRAPH OF PRESIDENT GRANT WITH MRS. GRANT AND THEIR FOUR CHILDREN, FREDERICK DENT (IN UNIFORM), ULYSSES S., JR., JESSE, AND NELLIE GRANT

cares and sorrows; but he received real comfort from his little son Thomas, whom he familiarly called "Tad," and who resembled his father more than any of the other children. It was said of him that "he gave to the sad and solemn White House the only comic relief it knew." The whole country came to know this irrepressible boy, who would often burst into the council-chamber when the President was discussing some weighty matter with his Cabinet. No national crisis, however, could quench the boyish spirits of "Tad." He would insist on telling his father about the woes of some petitioner who had taken his childish fancy, or, as on one occasion, would demand a written order that his favorite turkey

should not be killed and eaten.

"Tad" used to wear a small military riding-cloak of gray. When his father visited the army, "Tad" would accompany him, scurrying about upon a pony, and greeted everywhere with uproarious cheers from the thousands of blue-coated men who were far away from their own small sons. He lived until 1871, dying at the age of eighteen.

The Grant group was taken at the end of the Civil War. It shows the general in uniform, with his devoted wife beside him, and his eldest son, Frederick Dent Grant, in uniform between the two. Fred Grant, who is now Major-General F. D. Grant, in command of the Department of the East, was then a mere boy; but he had accompanied his father during the Vicksburg campaign, and was already destined for West Point. The other two sons, Jesse Grant and Ulysses S. Grant, Jr., are seen at the right.

Leaning against Mrs. Grant is their only daughter, Ellen Wrenshall Grant, afterward known to the country as "the Princess Nellie." During her father's Presidency she was married at the White House to Algernon Charles Frederick Sartoris, in 1874. Mr. Sartoris was an Englishman who had met Miss

Grant on a steamer while she was returning from Europe. President Grant disapproved of the match, partly because of her extreme youth, and partly because he disliked to have her make her home abroad; but at last he yielded, and the wedding was a brilliant social event. It is said that at the end of the reception which followed upon the ceremony the impassive soldier was found in a distant room with his head buried in his arms, and shedding tears, perhaps for the first time in his life. His forebodings were justified, for the marriage proved unhappy.

These old-time photographs call up many remembrances, and from the sentiments which they awaken they are far more interesting than most of the modern collections.